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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

June 17, 2004

The Honorable Robert Burton  
Acting Administrator  
Office of Federal Procurement Policy  
The White House  
1400 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Administrator Burton:

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am writing to express strong interest in the procurement law advisory panel for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. This panel was created by Section 1423 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004. The composition and the work of this panel stand to have a tremendous impact on the long-term ability of small businesses to have a meaningful ability to compete for federal contract opportunities.

As you are aware, I have introduced a measure to revise and extend the panel's legislative authority in order to provide for consideration of small business interests in the membership and activities of the panel. In particular, my amendment will require appointment of the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration to the panel, analysis and recommendations to promote small business procurement opportunities, increased accountability to include the Congressional Small Business Committees, and extension of the reporting deadline.

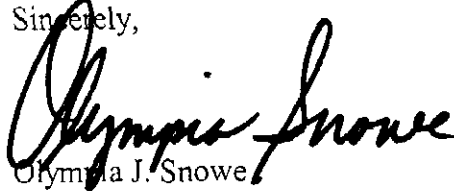
Small businesses have made important contributions to the national industrial base and have delivered numerous cutting-edge, cost-effective solutions to our civilian and defense agencies. In the Small Business Act, Congress set a government-wide statutory goal of 23 percent of all prime contract awards to be made to small businesses and directed the Small Business Administration to negotiate and monitor compliance with the statutory goal. The amendment will enable the advisory panel to advance this policy and President Bush's Executive Order No. 13272 requiring consideration of small business interests in Executive Branch rulemaking activities.

Recently, it has come to my attention that the panel has not yet convened. Therefore, your Office has an excellent opportunity to assure America's small businesses that their interests will be reflected in the development of federal procurement policies. I ask that you appoint a panel member from the Small Business Administration, charge the panel with consideration of

small business issues, and take other appropriate actions to further participation of small businesses in federal prime contracts and subcontracts.

I would appreciate if you could promptly advise my Committee in writing about your intended actions in response to this request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Max Kidalov or Nancyellen Gentile at (202) 224-5175 of my Committee staff. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Olympia J. Snowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Olympia" being more prominent and stylized than the last name "Snowe".

Olympia J. Snowe  
Chair